

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 JULY 1984

Iran-Iraq War

A spokesman for Iran's War Information Headquarters denied that Iraqi planes hit another ship in the Gulf on 19 July, describing the Iraqi claim as a "mere lie" and stressing that shipping activity was normal, IRNA reported. On the other hand, INA cited an FRG news agency report that an Iranian tanker issued distress signals after being hit by an Iraqi missile. Meanwhile, in a press interview reported by INA, Iraq's Navy commander warned that Iraq will tighten the siege of Khark Island so that no vessel will escape from the area. He claimed that Iran has thus far lost 170 "maritime targets" as well as a quarter of its Navy.

In Jidda, the ICO Good Offices committee issued a communique authorizing its chairman to negotiate with both Iran and Iraq to ascertain their current stances in an attempt to reach a "just settlement" of the conflict. The communique, which was carried by SPA, expressed anxiety over the escalation of the war and the danger that the area of conflict may widen. An IRNA report on the Jidda meeting accused Iraq of ignoring the ICO committee's efforts by announcing another attack on shipping in the Gulf. IRNA criticized the Good Offices Committee's silence over Iraq's use of chemical weapons, adding that the committee's peace efforts have "generally" made Iraqi President Saddam Husayn "bolder in his inhuman and aggressive acts."

Commenting on an Iranian envoy's recent visit to Saudi Arabia and Doha, the Manama *GULF MIRROR* contended that the visit's ostensible aim of arranging details of the pilgrimage was a cover for "high-level secret talks" between Iran and the GCC which could mark the start of a serious peace process in the Iran-Iraq war. According to the newspaper's sources, Iran may now agree to end attacks on Gulf shipping and Iranian officials are now talking "common sense."

Iran

Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi asked the Majlis for a vote of confidence in his government because the nomination of

threenew ministers has brought the government to the threshold of the constitutional requirement for a vote of confidence when half the cabinet members have been changed. The prime minister's request, which was made in a letter to the Majlis broadcast by Tehran radio, also stressed the government's need for the support of the Majlis under current "critical conditions."

Saudi Arabia

Saudi residents must henceforth obtain an official permit to perform the pilgrimage, the Interior Ministry announced in a statement broadcast by Riyadh radio. The new regulation is designed to prevent overcrowding in the holy places caused by local residents frequenting the pilgrimage and applications will, therefore, not be considered from those who have performed the pilgrimage within the past 5 years.

Lebanon

Work stopped at the Israeli liaison office in Ad-Dubiyah as Lebanese military personnel prepared to leave the building, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Nevertheless, Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran has not yet ordered the closure of the office, despite his accusation that it has become a center for spying and creating difficulties, the radio said. In Israel, *HADASHOT* reported that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will not order the evacuation of the office until after the election on 23 July. Uri Lubrani, Israel's coordinator of activities in Lebanon, warned earlier in a Jerusalem radio interview that the closure of the liaison office will hinder attempts to reach security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

In another incident in the south, the IDF killed a "terrorist" in an exchange of fire near 'Ammiq, Jerusalem radio reported.

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BAKHTAR: Reagan Advocates Aiding Rebels*LD200633 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 20 Jul 84*

[Text] Kabul, July 19, BAKHTAR: A political commentator writes:

It is of no surprise that U.S. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the so-called "Week of Enslaved Peoples" by posing himself as a champion of democracy and human rights.

The U.S. imperialism intensifies its psychological war against the newly emancipated nations from the yoke of colonialism and neocolonialism.

Addressing the counterrevolutionary leaders in the White House, the President did not confine himself to give the title of heroes to renegades, bandits and traitors. He bluntly declared that the "Week of Enslaved People" should be marked not just with words, but also with deeds. He provocatively called upon other capitalist countries to join the United States in extending aid to gangs of anti-Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

Reagan administration has transformed Pakistan into a springboard of undeclared war against the DRA. The Pakistani military regime gives military training to bandits in one hundred military camps in Pakistan, arming them and exporting them to the territory of Afghanistan for plunder and fratricide.

Experience has shown that whenever the Soviet Union offers a peace proposal, the United States thinks up irrational claims in order to confuse the public opinion for its own benefits.

Reagan's remark was one of Washington's extremely rare public confessions that the United States renders direct support for the bandits who, equipped and trained on CIA money, carry out terrorist raids against the DRA.

What does Reagan mean by "enslaved nations"? The only answer is the fact that Reagan's administration has formulated [word indistinct] against the free and independent countries whose independent lines and policies are not to the taste of the U.S. ruling circles. The imperialist countries must understand that the nations of the world have fully realized the facts and will no longer be cheated by [words indistinct] imperialism led by the U.S.

Kabul Reports Rebels Crushed in Various Areas*LD191619 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 19 Jul 84*

[Text] Continuing the campaign to arrest the counterrevolutionary bands in the villages and hamlets of our country by the vigilant security forces, a number of rebels were recently crushed in Parwan Province, Andkhoy district, Faryab Province; Keshem district, Badakhshan province; (Morad Kotali) region, Paktia Province; Khak-e Jabar district, and Kabul Province.

Weapons and ammunition were seized from these criminals by the security forces.

'Successful Operations' in Provinces*LD191821 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Jul 84*

[Text] Shattering and decisive blows by the country's heroic Armed Forces at the moribund body of the criminal counterrevolutionaries are being intensified from day to day; our people are being rescued from the harm of these murderers and are continuing their peaceful life and building a new and prosperous Afghanistan.

A BAKHTAR correspondent, reporting on an operation carried out by the heroic Armed Forces of the country in the villages of the Gol Darreh district, Kabul Province, reports that with the implementation of this operation the areas of (Sangsar), (Dowlatabad), Deh Now, Bidak, (Ghurian), (Shibak), (Shalow), (Deh-e Miana) and (Deh Araban) of the subdistrict were cleansed from the existence of these professional lunatics.

During the operation the men and officers of the Armed Forces destroyed 2 so-called Islamic committees, 12 positions, 7 caves, 4 mortars, 5 DShK's, 2 ZK-1's, more than 17,000 rounds of DShK ammunition; 400 kg of explosives; 6 food stores; 4 medical stores; 3 oil stores; and 2 convoys carrying enemy weapons.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that during the operation, 6 Chinese DShK's, 2 ZK-1's, 1 ZK-2, 2 heavy machine guns, 3 rocket launchers; 1 mortar; 50,000 rounds of DShK ammunition, 10,000 rounds of Kalashnikov ammunition; 300 shells for recoilless guns, 3 Egyptian and Chinese Kalashnikovs; 150 rounds of rocket launcher ammunition; 3 mortar shells, 128 Italian and British antitank mines; 21 antipersonnel mines; 20 hand grenades; 5 DShK trigger mechanisms, and 5 special explosive-making units made in Japan and the United States were seized by the troops and officers of the country's Armed Forces.

Also in the course of this operation a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed, while a number of them were captured with their weapons and documents.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that Fazl Ahmad Toghyan, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee [as heard] and the governor of Kabul, accompanied by some members of the Kabul Provincial Party Committee, visited the site of the seized weapons. He praised the heroic actions of the men and officers of the Armed Forces who saved the working people of (Gol Dara) subdistrict from the criminal rebels.

According to another report, another heroic operation carried out in the villages of (Shakar Dara) district by the heroic security forces, crushed 12 armed rebels. A spokesman for the security forces reported that 6 DShK's and 160 boxes of ammunition; 1 rocket launcher with 78 pieces of ammunition; 1 mortar; 1 heavy machine gun; 14 assorted weapons; 105 assorted mines; 61 hand grenades; and a food store were captured.

According to another report, a number of rebels in the villages of Arghistan district, Qandahar Province, were crushed, and two of their ringleaders (Mawalawi 'Ala Dad) and (Ahmadollah), along with 4 weapons and a quantity of other equipment, were captured by our vigilant security forces.

A security forces source reports from Farah Province that a number of rebels infiltrated from abroad were crushed by our security forces, and quantity of weapons and equipment, one motor vehicle, and antistate documents were captured.

Operations carried out in the Takhar and Kapisa Provinces resulted in a quantity of weapons being seized from those [as heard] who were crushed.

Karachi: Qandahar Attacks Kill 18 Government Troops
BK200942 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have destroyed a tank and two armored vehicles during a recent operation in Qandahar city. Some 18 Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed in the operation. According to reports, a group of mujahidin, armed with rocket launchers and light weapons, attacked a mobile unit at (Date Sharif) in Qandahar city on 7 July and killed 10 Soviet-Karmal soldiers and destroyed 1 tank.

The Afghan mujahidin also attacked a military convoy in the Najahan area and destroyed two armored vehicles, besides killing eight Soviet-Karmal soldiers and injuring several others.

Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan on Clashes

Badakhshan Province

GF151246 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 14 Jul 84

[Text] Reports received from Badakhshan Province indicate that as a result of a series of operations by our mujahidin brothers against the Soviet occupationist forces and the misled soldiers of the Babrak Karmal regime during the past 2 weeks, skirmishes have taken place in the Jorm and Monjan Districts. During these skirmishes a number of enemy soldiers were killed and wounded. In these skirmishes two enemy tanks were destroyed with their crew killed.

Herat Area

GF191840 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 19 Jul 84

[Text] Reports received from Herat detail clashes between our Muslim mujahidin and the Soviet occupationist forces together with the soldiers of the puppet Karmal regime. The Soviet occupationist forces, using all their machinery and resources, attacked the (Dewandar) region north of Herat but were bitterly resisted by the Muslim mujahidin. In this fight despite the fact that the enemy used (?102) heavily-armored tanks, it had to retreat. The defeated enemy then regrouped its men and tanks and made another attack with hundreds of men which was again repulsed by the mujahidin with heavy losses to the enemy. In these operations 40 enemy troops were killed and 70 others were wounded.

After sustaining these losses, the enemy began indiscriminate bombardment of [name indistinct], killing one innocent person in the (Qowlakchi) region and causing much material damage. Similarly in another area bombed by the enemy aircraft, five civilians were killed.

In Kabul, the mujahidin continued their attacks on military and strategic positions. They attacked the combined force of the Soviet occupationists and the Karmal mercenaries, killing and wounding many. These operations were carried out despite the fact that the enemy soldiers are on day and night alert in their effort to keep peace and security in the capital.

Reports received from Herat indicate that last week a number of Karmal officials were travelling in a car from the customs house at (Dokarun) to Eslam Qal'eh. Nisar Mohammad Khan was killed while an NCO and several soldiers were injured.

In mujahidin attacks against the combined enemy forces in Takhar, Nangarhar, Paktia, and Bamian Provinces, 35 enemy were killed while several more were wounded. The mujahidin also captured several kinds of arms from the enemy.

IRNA: Soviet Military Vehicle Attacked in Kabul

LD181418 Tehran IRNA in English 1359 GMT 18 Jul 84

[Text] New Delhi, July 18, IRNA — Muslim Afghan mujahidin attacked a Soviet military vehicle stationed near the presidential palace in Kabul killing its seven passengers.

According to travellers arriving in India the sound of gun fire is heard nightly throughout Kabul as resistance fighters attack government security posts around the capital.

Pashtun Leader Arrives in Kabul 19 Jul

LD191749 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Jul 84

[Text] Khan Abdol Ghafar Khan, the great Pashtun leader, arrived in Kabul this afternoon by way of Jalalabad city. Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, Niaz Mohammad Mohmand; vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, Abdol Majid Sarboland; a number of members of the Democratic Women of Afghanistan leadership; elders and leaders of tribes in Afghanistan; the deputy ministers of the Ministry of Tribal and Nationalities Affairs; and high-ranking officials of that ministry welcomed Khan Abdol Ghafar Khan at Kabul airport.

According to another report, the great Pashtun leader, Khan Abdol Ghafar Khan, this morning at 1200 arrived in Jalalabad city.

A leader of the Pakistan National Democratic Party, the wife of Khan Wali Khan, Nasim Wali, is also accompanying Khan Abdol Ghafar Khan.

Khan Abdol Ghafar Khan was welcomed at Dakkah by Solayman La'eq, the minister of tribal and nationalities affairs; Khoda Dad Basharmal, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Eastern Zone; Ajmal Khatak; the provincial party committee secretary of Nangarhar Province; the governor of Nangarhar; the party committee secretary of (Shinwar) major district; and a large number of leaders and elders of the Shinwar and Mohmand tribes.

According to a report by a BAKHTAR correspondent from Jalalabad city, along the Tor Kham-Jalalabad highway and in the areas of Dakkah, Ghani Khel, Mohmand Dara and Bati Kot, the local people and elders, the party cadres and party activists in (Shinwar) major district, and the members of social organizations, carrying photos of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the

PDPA Central Committee and President of the DRA Revolutionary Council, welcomed Khan Abdol Ghafar Khan and Nasim Wali with flowers.

According to another report, Nasim Wali, the wife of Khan Wali Khan, accompanied by Solayman La'eq, left for Kabul this afternoon at 1430.

The head of eastern zone, the secretary of the provincial party committee of Nangarhar, the governor of Nangarhar, and members of the Nangarhar party committee and state cadres were present at Nangarhar airport to see Khan Abdol Ghafar Khan off.

Gandhi Speaks at Defense Production Factory

*BK191450 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 19 Jul 84*

[Text] The prime minister has stressed the need for strengthening the Armed Forces and keeping them abreast of technological developments in the world. Laying the foundation stone of the 421 crore rupee ordnance factory at Eddumaylaram in Andhra Pradesh, southern India, Mrs Gandhi said ever since independence, the country's policy has been to achieve self-reliance in defense and other vital sectors. She said we are a peace-loving people, yet we were attacked a number of times. It is quite necessary for us to make defense equipment, she added.

The ordnance factory will manufacture the latest types of infantry combat vehicles in technical collaboration with the Soviet Union. Mrs Gandhi said indigenous production of such vehicles will be a step forward in achieving self-reliance in our defense efforts. She expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for her help in executing the project. The Soviet ambassador in India and some Soviet officials attended the function.

The prime minister asked the people to be vigilant against the forces of disintegration. Dangers are lurking around the country. The unity and integrity of the country should be of the utmost importance to the people. She said other considerations should come later.

Speaking on the occasion the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, emphasized the need to update the country's defense capability. He said a technical board has been constituted to give greater autonomy to defense production units in the country.

Punjab Military Commander To Advise Governor

*BK191310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
19 Jul 84*

[Text] Lieutenant General K. Gauri Shankar, general officer commanding a corps in Punjab, has been appointed adviser to the state governor. An official press release in New Delhi today said that Lt Gen R.S. Dayal, presently adviser to the Punjab governor, will continue to be associated with the operations in his capacity as the chief of staff, Western Command.

Sikh High Priests Condemn Volunteer Work at Temple

*BK191618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
19 Jul 84*

[Text] The five Sikh head priests today declared the Budha Dal Nihang [Sikh temple guard] chief, Baba Santa Singh as tan-khaiya [guilty of Sikh religions offense]. They said he is guilty of committing a Sikh religious offense because he has undertaken Kar Sewa [voluntary community service] in the Golden Temple complex against their direction.

Meanwhile, the Kar Sewa is progressing well with hundreds of devotees including women and children joining it. Jatha [groups] from different places have also started reaching Amritsar for the Kar Sewa. The curfew which was clamped as a precautionary measure early this week was lifted at 1100 this morning. A division bench of the Punjab and Haryana high court today dismissed a petition seeking direction for restraining Baba Santa Singh from undertaking the Kar Sewa.

About 70 Akali workers were arrested this afternoon for defiance of prohibitory orders in the city. They wanted to hold a demonstration demanding withdrawal of security forces from the Golden Temple complex.

Briefs

66th TV Transmitter — A TV transmitter was commissioned today at Akola in Maharashtra. It is the 66th TV transmitter in the country. It will have a range of 2,000 square kilometers and will cover a population of about 5 lakh. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jul 84 BK]

JANG on Restrictions on Afghan Refugees

GF191400 Lahore JANG in Urdu 10 Jul 84 p 1, 8

[Text] It has been revealed that the Afghan refugees residing in camps around several towns will not be allowed to enter Karachi. The police have received strict instructions in this matter. Sources added that from now on no Afghan refugee will be allowed to enter Karachi from any route. A strict watch has been set up at the airport, the railway stations, and the national highway.

According to these sources, police have been instructed to make a strict check on all Afghan refugees, especially those coming on flights from Peshawar. All Afghan refugees are to be stopped at the airport and sent back to their camp. Similarly the police are watching all traffic along the national highway, searching cars, buses, and trucks. If any Afghan refugee is found on these vehicles he is to be immediately sent back to his camp. The police are also watching all railway stations for the same purpose.

The sources said that these restrictions have been imposed on Afghan refugees because it has been found that these refugees are mainly engaged in smuggling narcotics and various other illegal trades. However, no decision has been made so far regarding thousands of Afghan refugees already residing in Karachi, whether they will also be sent back to their respective camps or will be allowed to stay where they are.

NEPAL

Canadian Official Arrives, Holds Talks

BK191641 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT
19 Jul 84

[Text] Canada's deputy minister of the department of external affairs, Montigny de Marchand, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand at his office today. Mr de Marchand arrived in Katmandu today on a 3-day official visit to Nepal.

Canadian deputy minister for external affairs, Montigny de Marchand, called on Foreign Minister Padma Bahadur Khatri at the Foreign Ministry today and held talks on (?mutual) bilateral and international issues. On the occasion, the Canadian deputy minister said that in recognition of every country's right to live in peace and shape its own destiny in the international community, Canada also supports the objectives embodied in the proposal made by his majesty the king of Nepal to designate Nepal as a zone of peace. He said we hope that Nepal will continue to [words indistinct] in the spirit of friendship and cooperation which characterizes its relations with the countries of the region. On the occasion, the foreign minister thanked the Canadian deputy minister, Mr de Marchand, for the Canadian Government's firm support to Nepal's peace zone proposal.

SRI LANKA

Colombo Confirms State of Emergency Extension

BK201049 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The state of emergency was extended for another month by over a two-third majority in parliament last night; 123 members voted for the extension, while 10 opposed it. The MP's of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, and Communist Party voted against the proposal.

North Korean Ship Broadcasting to Tamils

GF191119 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English
19 Jul 84 p 5

[Correspondent's report]

[Text] Colombo — A North Korean ship stationed in international waters is airing pirate radio broadcasts encouraging the armed overthrow of the Colombo government.

The highly inflammatory broadcasts picked up here, in English, Sinhalese and Tamil, during the weekends calls for the minority Tamils in the island to use an armed struggle to carve out a separate state for themselves in the island.

The Tamil extremists are battling government forces in the northern and eastern provinces.

The accusation against Pyongyang's support for Tamil extremists is contained in an intelligence report recently in Washington by Mid-Atlantic Research Associates Inc.

The report entitled "Early Warning" reproduced in the independent *THE ISLAND* newspaper, in Sri Lanka yesterday.

Apart from disclosing the pirate broadcasts, the article also said the Tamil extremists were purchasing modern weapons from North Korea.

The report estimates the number of Tamil armed extremists at around 6,000. A group of Tamil extremists known as Tamil Tigers are also alleged to receive arms from North Korea and Zimbabwe.

ICO Appeal, Iraqi Maritime Attacks Criticized*LD191526 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 19 Jul 84*

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — Just as the 9-member committee of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) assigned to investigate the Iraqi-imposed war, concluded its work in Jidda, the Iraqi regime in an official statement announced that it has struck a large marine target in the Persian Gulf Thursday morning.

Following a two-day meeting, the committee in its statement appealed to both Iran and Iraq to refrain from spreading the war in the Persian Gulf and halt attacks on oil tankers.

The Iraqi regime, which has initiated attacks on oil tankers navigating in the Persian Gulf waters, has completely ignored the request of the ICO committee and has announced its latest action in the Persian Gulf waters.

The committee's statement is completely silent on the Iraqi use of chemical warfare against the Iranian forces; however, it has urged both countries to halt attacks on residential areas.

Furthermore the committee has made no mention of Iraq's silence towards the United Nations' request concerning halt on usage of chemical warfare. It has stated that the ICO has decided to have regular contacts with Baghdad and Tehran to find proper ways to end the Iraqi-imposed war.

The two-day session was attended by presidents of Gambia, Bangladesh and Pakistan, the PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti and also foreign ministers of Guinea, Malaysia and also the Senegalese ambassador to Tunisia.

In the light of the previous attitudes of the ICO, the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that the recent initiative of the organization, like those in the past, would not be fruitful. It has also made it clear that definitely any attempt to ease tension in the region without eliminating its source, Saddam, would be doomed to failure.

The ICO committee in the past has failed to show proper reaction towards the Iraqi regime's crimes including its deployment of chemical weapons, an action which has been condemned by the world public opinion and also international circles. Generally, the peace efforts of the ICO committee has made the Iraqi ruler bolder in his inhuman and aggressive acts.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has clarified its stance towards the committee by taking into account the above facts and also the nature of certain members of the committee and their statements in support of Saddam's aggressions.

Iraqi Claim Denied*LD191534 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 19 Jul 84*

[Text] Tehran July 19 IRNA — The War Information Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council (SDC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran today categorically denied a claim by the Iraqi

regime that its jet fighters had hit a "great naval target" in the Persian Gulf. A spokesman for the headquarters stressed that no event had occurred in the Persian Gulf on Thursday and that shipping was normal. He described the Iraqi claim as "a mere lie".

Meanwhile, the REUTER news agency, in a dispatch from Oslo today, quoted Norwegian shipbrokers as having rejected the Iraqi claim. "If there was anything to this we would have heard within a very short time," a shipbroker was quoted by REUTER as saying. They added that several tankers were in the Persian Gulf at the moment.

Last Friday also, the Iraqi regime claimed it had struck at "two great naval targets" in the Persian Gulf, which claim was also categorically denied by shipping sources and the Lloyd's insurance company.

Khamene'i Raps ICO Committee, Reiterates Gulf Stance*LD201158 Tehran IRNA in English 1139 GMT 20 Jul 84*

[Text] Tehran July 20 IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i today described the so-called Peace Committee of the Islamic Conference Organisation as a "committee in support of Saddam" and reiterated that the Islamic Republic did not accept renewed peace efforts conducted by the ICO committee. The president stressed at the same time that "we will welcome any efforts for the establishment of a just peace. But an unjust and imposed peace which overlooks the legitimate rights of the Iranian nation, will never be accepted by us."

Speaking to a large crowd of Muslim worshippers attending this week's Friday prayers here at the Tehran University campus and its nearby streets, the leader of the prayers also said that Iran has always welcomed peace-seeking efforts from the very beginning and that "we have never been in favour of the war." He said the cause of the war in the region was the Baghdad regime or "in better words, those regimes and individuals who considered our Islamic revolution a threat against themselves. Who are they? Go and find them."

The head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) said the Iraqi-imposed war was a plot in which Iran's greatest enemies participated. "It was indeed a plot against the Islamic revolution," said he, further adding that "it is natural for us to dislike war and be in favour of peace; it is quite obvious."

"We don't consider this ICO committee a peace committee. With what this committee has done so far, it would be more appropriate if we call it the committee in support of Saddam. Never throughout its life (about three and a half years), did they (its members) take any stand against the savage moves and great crimes and sins of the Saddam's regime... In their meetings here with us we reiterated our stands and repeated that Iraq is an aggressor, and they accepted it. Some of the members of this committee even openly declared that they knew Iraq had started the war, but they declined to condemn it... They neither condemned Iraqi attacks on our cities nor its employment of lethal chemical weapons. They did not even generally condemn the use of chemical warfare because they knew that Iraq had employed

chemical weapons... So what kind of a peace committee is this? It is rather a committee in support of Saddam."

Further on the ICO's passive position, the SDC head said: "If they wanted to take a serious step, they could take stand on the Persian Gulf events. But they did not. We declared several times that the Persian Gulf issues were apart from the war issue. The war is between us and the Iraqi regime, of course, with Iraq being the adventurist. But in the Persian Gulf the parties involved are not only Iraq and us. There are other nations and governments which hold interests there. We are not in favour of tension in the Persian Gulf. Although it was Iraq which initiated the mischief in the Persian Gulf yet we showed self-control and tolerance. "Of course, some jiver [as received] political circles were claiming that the Iranians were unable to reciprocate. However, all knew and know that we are capable of reciprocating, both in the sea and on the land. Anywhere we intend to take measures we would make the aggressor feel sorry, and we have proven this... And now also, we say that we do not want tension in the Persian Gulf. But this is not for them to imagine that we are more vulnerable than they are in the Persian Gulf.

"Naturally, we have many interests there — we export our oil and most of our imports are coming through the Persian Gulf. But other Persian Gulf governments are more dependent than we are (on this waterway) — those who must import their everything from outside and those who are not capable of filling the stomachs of their limited number of people... But we have a devoted nation, a great, patient and combatant nation, a nation which has been strongly resisting for almost four years in the war... But what about them? Will their people too, be able to show so much resistance?

"Tension and confrontation in the Persian Gulf would definitely be more difficult for others than for us. The key in the Persian Gulf is in our hands. We are capable of making the Persian Gulf insecure for all. We could have done this by now, but we did not. And now too, we do not intend to be a pioneer in adventurism in the Persian Gulf. We will not be initiators if others don't resort to adventurism and tension and instead try to understand the realities...

"The war issue is different from that of the Persian Gulf. Regarding the war, we will not forgive Saddam. They are wrong if they think they would be able to make us forget, with the elapse of time and through propaganda pressures, the great crimes committed by this vicious regime which is a burden on the Iraqi people. Our nation cannot tolerate beside itself a regime which is a symbol of vice and corruption. Therefore, we once again declare to the world that we will not, by any means, disregard the punishment of Saddam — a condition we have put forth from the very beginning."

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,793

LD191637 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 19 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA — The Iraqi forces sustained considerable losses and their movements were checked in the Chuman Mustafa region of the northwestern theatre when they came under heavy fire by the Iranian forces over the 24 hours

preceding Thursday, according to the 1,793rd Joint Staff communique issued the same day.

It added that more than 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in a region north of Sar Dasht, in the said theatre, where at least 14 heavy and light armament emplacements of the enemy were demolished by the Islamic defenders during the same period.

Sporadic fire exchanges continued between the two sides in the western fronts where the Muslim combatants of Iran successfully carried out considerable patrol operations.

An Iraqi patrol group attempting to penetrate the Islamic forces' positions in the Sumar region of the Bakhtaran fronts was immediately routed by the timely fire of the Iranians which inflicted more losses upon the enemy.

Artillery fire was also traded between the Iranian forces and Iraqi troops in the southern fronts, being more intense in the areas of Shalamcheh, Zayd, Kushk, Sharhani and Majnun Islands where the Iranian artillery fire inflicted some losses and casualties upon the enemy during the preceding 24 hours.

Another enemy patrol group backed by artillery fire attempted to reach the Iranian troops' defensive lines near the (Talaiyeh) area of the southern theatre on Tuesday was soon spotted by the Islamic troops and smashed the Iraqi patrol forcing them to flee. [sentence as received]

In the battlefronts of Ilam, Mehran, Dehloran and Abadan, more than nine Iraqi bunkers and lookout posts were destroyed as the Islamic combatants silenced enemy fire halting the latter's movement on the Al-Faw-Basra axis as well as killing or wounding a number of Iraqi troops in the Arvand river area.

Five more homes were damaged as a result of the Iraqi long-range artillery fire on Abadan's inhabited areas during Wednesday, said the joint staff communique.

Prime Minister Receives USSR Envoy, Message

LD191701 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jul 84

[Text] The Soviet charge d'affaires to the Islamic Republic of Iran visited the prime minister's office yesterday to deliver a special message from his government. Referring to relations between Iran and the USSR, the prime minister said that reliance on the policy of goodneighborliness, while maintaining our principles, is one of the important foundations of our foreign policy.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discusses Role of Media

GF200853 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The employees and writers of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran met the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday evening.

During this meeting, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in a detailed speech that a large part of our work depends on propaganda and hence, our work resembles the guidance work of radio officials in nature. Apart from the responsibilities of state, political, and military affairs, our lives, as those of other clergymen are based in principle on propagation and guidance. If we do not say propagation plays the foremost part in the application of movements, we must say, that it does play a very important part.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis then said: Our greatest and longstanding wish was to put propagation on the correct course — that is, the people should hear the words of truth and discover the facts and they should not, like the present world, get into the habit of always hearing and seeing distortions. This is because we do not wish to behave toward the people with [preconceived] ideas and dissimulation.

To the statement that the clergymen have, with truth and righteousness, been able to convey their message for an uprising to the people and have been successful in this mission, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Although the terrorists and hard-hearted hypocrites created a chasm between us and the people, our people see the presence of our clergymen and seminarians in the war and see that we have also sent self-sacrificing seminarians to the caravan of martyrdom on the fronts just as the people have given martyrs. Our people see these facts, this sincerity, this sameness, and hence we see that truth creates a path for itself. On this basis, if our publicity is harmonious with reality and authenticity, even if it works slowly, it will be durable and deep.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis, referring to the consecutive plots of the counterrevolutionaries and world arrogance that have taken place in Iran and to the venomous propaganda of radios and the collective media of the foreigners, said: The enemy's circles and media endeavor to weaken the revolution by exaggerating the economic problems and other issues. But despite all this, and for the sake of the firmness between the clergymen and other officials with the people, society has preserved its fabric and will not disintegrate. The best example of this is the people who begin to move toward the Tehran University for the offering of prayers on Friday mornings and then go home tired, in the afternoon, when they can do many other things on Fridays, if they so desire. Similarly, it has never been seen in any revolution that people repeatedly participate in marches or in elections or go to the polls to vote for their revolution. One of the best other examples of the people's unity is the result of truthful propagation on combatants who go to the fronts repeatedly and continue to fight against the barrage of mortar shells, bullets, and grenades.

Prime Minister Meets SRV Ambassador

GF200638 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Text] Mr Nguyen Quang Tao, the SRV's accredited ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, met Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn-Musavi yesterday. During this meeting, the SRV envoy expressed the hope of the Vietnamese nation and government for expansion of relations between the two countries, while explaining his country's stance vis-a-vis the events in Southeast Asia and the current situation in the Gulf region.

He stated: Our people have always supported the Islamic Revolution of Iran and have lauded the continuous efforts of the Iranian people and their struggle against foreigners.

In these meeting, the SRV envoy delineated the economic possibilities of his country with regard to the expansion of commercial relations.

Then, Mr Mir Hoseyn-Musavi, while explaining the long-term efforts of the United States to dominate the people of the southeastern region, and drawing a parallel between the conspiracies of the ruthless U.S. and Western military policy in Southeast Asia, mentioned the common factors in the Iranian and Vietnamese struggles despite differences in their geographical locations.

Continuing his statement, regarding the details of the motivating factors of the Islamic Revolution as well as the continued struggle of the Muslim Iranian people against world oppression, the prime minister said: The stability of the revolution, the efforts toward self-sufficiency, and the neutralizing of the conspiracies of world arrogance are the outstanding characteristics of the Islamic Revolution. The prime minister added: Of course, our way of free-thinking does not appeal to many, but we have announced from the beginning that the presence of the United States in the area conflicts with the objectives of the Islamic Revolution. This is why all our nation's efforts are directed toward cutting off the hand of the United States in the area. Hence, we attempt to forge foreign relations with countries which have adopted the path of a struggle against the United States.

In concluding his speech, Mr Mir Hoseyn-Musavi explained the essence and dimensions of "Neither East nor West" and the gradual influence of this principle on other countries. The Islamic Republic's firm adherence to this principle and the possibility of exchanging valuable, direct information as the basis of expanding relations between Third World countries has been recognized.

Commerce Official Discusses Foreign Trade Policy

GF191237 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 July 84

[Excerpts] According to IRNA, the under secretary of our country's Ministry of Commerce in a talk explained Iran's commercial policy in respect to foreign trade, imports from foreign countries, exporting nonpetroleum goods, issuance of trading documents, setting up trade offices abroad, and the import of goods by Iranian workers working in the Persian Gulf emirates. He began by referring to our foreign trade policy, saying: The basic policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in foreign trade is to strengthen and aid the Islamic and oppressed countries of the world in maintaining their political independence, while at the same time establishing an independent policy for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In regard to economic aims, he said: The main aims are to determine the correct consumption of commodities; eliminate shortages due to bottlenecks in production and delays in receiving imports; achieve self-sufficiency in producing certain commod-

ities; develop the internal trade network; promote the export trade; assist Muslim countries; set up an Islamic common market; strengthen the country's financial and foreign exchange bases; create a balance between the export of petroleum and nonpetroleum products; import useful technology; and promote trade with Muslim countries.

He then discussed the cultural aims of the foreign trade policy of the Islamic regime, saying: "We hope to promote trade with the Islamic countries of the Third World, while propagating the moral and cultural values of the Islamic Republic to the world, especially to the oppressed countries. He discussed how Islamic values can solve all the material and moral difficulties in the current world crisis. He also said that major agreements have been concluded with Syria, Pakistan, Turkey, India, China, Hungary, Poland, Spain, and several other countries.

The under secretary of the Ministry of Commerce discussed the lower standard of items produced locally and the high prices prevailing in the Third World countries and in the Islamic countries as compared to prices in the West and hoped that by expanding trade relations, by supplying each other with needed materials, and by exchanging information and technical knowledge, all these drawbacks can gradually be overcome.

The under secretary then referred to a cause for the imbalance in importing goods into the country: "The question of implementing the foreign trade law has been under discussion for the past 3 months and its passage is still up in the air. If it were clarified, we could then effectively deal with foreign trade and the law governing it. Unfortunately, the ministry still lacks the necessary rules and regulations and as long as this law is still pending, the current difficulties will continue.

He then referred to the reduction in imports and said if the aim is to decrease the importance of exporting petroleum goods, the types of goods imported will change. The new priorities will be set, keeping in mind current limitations. He also discussed issuing trading documents to merchants, and said: "In view of the fact that rules for issuing these documents were developed after the advent of the Islamic revolution and that we have been implementing these rules, but we still believe further changes are necessary. Steps have been taken to renew old documents, while the new rules are under study by the Assembly of Experts.

Concluding, he referred to the question of imported goods by the Iranian workers working in the Persian Gulf emirates. He said that since these articles are sold at high prices and at rates fixed by the government, in order to help workers and to set up some rules for such imports, the necessary rules have been approved and by the Assembly of Experts. Under these rules, every worker can import goods worth 100,000 tumans annually.

Petroleum Minister Gharazi Meets Majlis Speaker

GF200550 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Text] According to our correspondent, Mr Gharazi, the petroleum minister, met Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis. During the meeting, the petroleum minister

submitted a report on the recent OPEC session to the speaker of the Islamic Majlis.

Deputy Chairman on Assembly of Experts' Work

LD191521 [Editorial report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0330 GMT on 19 July carries a 10-minute recorded interview with Ayatollah Rabbani-Amlashi, deputy chairman of the Assembly of Experts, after the final session of the Assembly's second term on 18 July.

With regard to the role of the Assembly he says: "As you know, according to the Constitution, the Assembly of Experts is concerned with the principles of leadership. The issues discussed in the Assembly must not go beyond the boundaries of the duties of leadership, choosing the leader, and issues relating to the leadership."

Concerning Assembly sessions, he says: "According to the regulations, the sessions of the Assembly of Experts are not open. Issues discussed during the sessions cannot be published by the mass media without the Assembly's approval." He then describes the proceedings, without divulging the contents of the discussions. He adds: "Various proposals were presented to the Assembly in connection with principles relating to the Assembly of Experts, most of which were ratified. One of the decisions, which was a very good one from every aspect, was that the Assembly of Experts approved the formation of a committee, called the Article 7, 107 and 109 Committee. According to Articles 7, 107 and 109 of the Constitution, the committee is to deal with issues relating to the leadership. The committee has 15 members."

Quoting Article 107 of the Constitution, he says: "Whenever one of the jurisconsults who satisfies the conditions stated in Article 5 is recognized and accepted by a decisive majority of the people as leader and source of emulation, that person becomes the leader and takes on all the responsibilities of the position of velayat-e amr (another term for velayat-e faqih, both meaning vice regency of the jurisconsult), as in the case of the esteemed, source of emulation, the leader of the revolution, the grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeini."

Referring to a situation in which no such person can be found, he says: "The experts elected by the people would appraise and discuss the cases of all the people who satisfy the conditions for becoming sources of emulation and leaders. When they find a person who possesses special qualities for leadership, they would present him to the public as the leader. Otherwise, they would elect three or five persons satisfying the conditions for leadership and present them to the public." He adds that this committee would be in charge of the preparations for this matter.

The interviewer asks for the names of the committee members. Rabbani-Amlashi then lists the following names: "Javadi, Amini, Mo'men, [name indistinct], Rohani, Khaz'ali, Mohammadi-Gilani, Movahhedi, Ahmadi, Malakuti, Taheri-Esfahani and myself."

He goes on to describe the following qualities required for leadership according to Article 109: academic qualifications, political and social wisdom, bravery, strength of character, and ability in management.

He says that a seminar concerning the issue of leadership is to be held, to be attended by Iranian and foreign elders, the preparations for which have been assigned to the assembly presidium. He adds that the assembly is to hold an extraordinary session in 6 months.

Abadan, Ahvaz Imams Meet Leaders

GF191720 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 19 Jul 84

[Text] Musavi-Jaza'iri and Jami, the Friday imams of Ahvaz and Abadan respectively, who are in Tehran for a meeting of the Assembly of Experts separately called on Mr Khamene'i, the president, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker.

According to a report received by the Central News Unit, Mr Jami, the Friday imam of Abadan, told Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i about the fortitude and sacrifices of the people in Abadan. Mr Khamene'i praised the resistance and sacrifices of the people of Abadan, and reiterated his faith in victory at the war fronts by the Islamic fighters while expressing good wishes for all of them.

During a meeting between Musavi Jaza'iri, the representative of the imam and Friday imam of Ahvaz, and Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Friday imam presented a check for 2.55 million rials to the speaker on behalf of the Islamic council and oil industry workers as a donation to aid the war of right against wrong. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked him for the donation and the sacrifices made by the people.

Central Bank Governor on Monetary Reserves

GF200717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The chief of the country's Central Bank, who visited the axes of the south and Ahvaz to inspect the fronts of the battle of truth versus falsehood, announced in an interview with the Central News Unit: From a monetary position, we can continue the war for a long time while maintaining the reliable and firm condition of the monetary reserves of the Islamic Republic.

He added: The mass media and propaganda sources of the world of apostasy and blasphemy try to exert pressure on us with the propaganda war they initiated against us after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. They hence attribute false and baseless problems to the Islamic Republic at every step. He continued: What is obvious is that we are dependent on our own monetary resources, while during the course of the war the Zionist Iraqi regime, because of its dependence on other countries, has become swamped by heavy debts. According to the statistics of the IMF, this affiliated regime has borrowed about \$60 billion from the Arab countries of the region. During the course of the

imposed war, we have not taken out any loans; we have also paid off the loans we inherited from the previous regime during the specified period and have reduced our debts to a minimum.

Envoy in Havana Delivers Velayati's Message

GF200808 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Text] Iranian Ambassador in Havana Mostafa Mokhlesi met yesterday with Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca and delivered to him a message from our foreign minister, Mr Velayati.

During this meeting in which they discussed the means of strengthening bilateral relations, Mostafa Mokhlesi reviewed Iran's stands toward international issues. The Cuban foreign minister denounced the U.S. imperialist plots in the Persian Gulf aimed at expanding the imposed war and warned against U.S. intervention in this region.

KYODO Reports Japan-Iran Agricultural Agreement

OW200123 Tokyo KYODO in English 0020 GMT 20 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 19, KYODO — Japan signed an agreement with Iran Thursday to cooperate in agricultural development in Mazandaran Province facing the Caspian Sea, Japanese officials reported.

The agreement was signed between the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Iranian Government.

Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe pledged to extend the cooperation when he visited here last year. It will be Japan's first technical cooperation to Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Bani-Sadr on Iran's Military, Political Outlook

AU191538 Vienna ARBEITER-ZEITUNG in German 19 Jul 84 p 5

[Interview given by former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr to *ARBEITER-ZEITUNG* reporter Georg Hoffmann-Ostenhof in Paris — no date given]

[Excerpts] AZ: Mr Bani-Sadr, in Tehran a great Ramadan offensive was announced. It never started — what happened?

Bani-Sadr: Not only did I predict that this time a large-scale attack would be difficult, but I am also waging a campaign against sending the Iranian people's children to the frontline, where they are to be used as a human wave.

AZ: And what is the reason Iran did not attack?

Bani-Sadr: The regime itself is no longer as convinced as before that it has a base in the country, especially after the recent elections (at which a large percentage heeded the appeal of the opposition not to go to the polls — AZ). They have discovered that there is a vacuum behind the regime, that they are isolated in the country. Naturally, this has caused the regime to hesitate

in massively attacking Iraq. According to reports from Iran the regime mobilized and alerted the troops for combat several times within the past 2 and 1/2 months, the last time on 21 June. And there have been reports that the soldiers at the frontline — and even the Pasradan (Revolutionary Guards) are less and less ready to follow the orders from Tehran.

AZ: Are there not also purely military reasons?

Bani-Sadr: Well, the offensives were doomed to failure even in the past. The attacks were made not to take Baghdad and to overthrow Saddam Husayn, but the target was Basra (in the south of Iraq). And even if attacks were made in the north, this was done merely to prepare the offensive in the south. But militarily, these are lost battles even if they are won. It is a desert there. It cannot be defended. And it is the best terrain for the Iraqis and their weapons. Thus the Iranian offensives have been ground down and smashed. And, in addition to the growing dissatisfaction at the frontline, weapons are lacking. When we attacked again and again, there was no air support, and even artillery support was lacking. To attack in the desert without support by Air Force and artillery is suicidal.

AZ: Are there also differences within the Tehran leadership over the way the war is being waged?

Bani-Sadr: I would say that all the top people in the regime, except Khomeyni, want peace.

AZ: There is an analysis which says: If the regime were to make peace it would be overthrown. Do you agree with that?

Bani-Sadr: Yes, but if the war is continued the situation won't improve, either. It is a dilemma.

AZ: Thus you don't believe that any Iranian offensive will be launched in the very near future?

Bani-Sadr: No, I would not say that. But the fact that Tehran is hesitating shows that we are on the right path when waging our campaign against the war. Because to continue [the war] means to be weakened. And we do not want our country to lose, and above all we do not want the Iraqi regime to be strengthened.

AZ: Mr Bani-Sadr, what has changed in Iran since you left the country?

Bani-Sadr: Everything. Before, there was freedom; now there is dictatorship.

AZ: Thus the revolution was in vain?

Bani-Sadr: By no means. At the time of the shah, the Iranian was characterized by his fatalism, his passivity, which accepted that nothing could be changed. The Iranian today is completely different. Today the Iranians are a rejuvenated people with an activist mentality. And if Khomeyni continues the war, he is profiting to some extent from this change. His speeches are taking this changed mentality into account when he says: "Let us export the revolution," "Let us change the world," or "The Americans are afraid of us." This is not originating from him — it reflects the new awareness of the people. Neither the Khomeyni regime nor anyone else can ultimately stop this people.

AZ: Was Khomeyni's dictatorship unavoidable, or have you made mistakes?

Bani-Sadr: Sure, I've made many mistakes. But the most important mistake was that we completely trusted Khomeyni. I believed that he — the religious leader — would keep his promises, the promises he made during his exile in Paris. But in the struggle against the shah we closed our eyes to Khomeyni's greed for power.

AZ: Should a resistance have been set up earlier?

Bani-Sadr: Yes, from the very beginning one should have formed a solid alliance to resist all authoritarian attempts and trends. But we are correcting all these mistakes now. I have taken over the leadership of the struggle against Khomeyni. The various opposition groups have called for boycotting the elections. The results show that those who say no are already the majority in Iran. Now we are succeeding in boycotting the war, and....

AZ: Who is "we"?

Bani-Sadr: All those who want to change things from within the country. There are groups which rely on external powers, on the Iraqi regime. We are against collaboration with the Saddam Husayn regime. And, you see: first election boycott, then war boycott, and then — if that is successful — we will in a third phase wage a campaign for the restoration of freedom. And when this is achieved, this means the end of the Khomeyni regime.